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PREVIEW
NOTES

Vinson Cole, tenor and George Darden, piano
Sunday, October 17 • 3:00 PM • American Philosophical Society

Background

Internationally acclaimed tenor Vinson Cole has sung romantic lead roles in many of the major opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera; San Francisco Opera; Opera National de Paris and Paris Opéra-Bastille; Teatro alla Scala; the Seattle Opera; and the Berlin, Vienna, Bavarian, and Hamburg State Operas. Born in Kansas City, MO, he completed his vocal studies at the Curtis Institute of Music under the tutelage of Margaret Harshaw. He is currently a faculty member at the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri, KC.

Program to include a set of spirituals and works by:

Vincenzo Bellini

Born: November 3, 1801 in Catania, Sicily
Died: September 23, 1835 in Puteaux, France

The quintessential composer of Bel canto opera, Bellini was famous for his long flowing melodic lines, the signature characteristic for which he was given the nickname "The Swan of Catania." His best-known works include *La sonnambula*, *Norma* and *I puritan*.

Joaquín Nin

Born: September 29, 1879 in Havana, Cuba
Died: October 24, 1949 in Havana, Cuba

Spanish-Cuban composer Nin wrote only a modest number of original works, mostly songs. However, he edited several important volumes of old Spanish music, particularly from the Spanish Baroque. He was the father of composer-pianist-conductor Joaquín María Nin-Culmell and the writer Anaïs Nin. On his 1995 recording with Patrick Stephens, Cole performed four Nin songs: *Alma, sintamos*; *Minué cantado*; *Desengañémonos ya*; and *El Jilguerito*.

Henri Duparc

Born: January 21, 1848 in Paris, France
Died: February 12, 1933 in Mont-de-Marsan, France

One of the most popular French composers of the late Romantic period, Duparc is best known for his seventeen *mélodies* ("art songs") with texts by poets such as Baudelaire, Gautier, Leconte de Lisle and Goethe. On his 1995 recording Cole performed three Duparc songs: *Extase*, *Chanson triste* and *Soupir*.

Richard Strauss

Born: June 11, 1864 in Munich, Germany
Died: Sept. 8, 1949 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

Around the end of the 19th century, Strauss turned his attention to opera. After two controversial attempts in the genre, he produced *Salome* (1905), which was a major triumph in spite of its unprecedented use of dissonance for dramatic purposes. His later successes in the genre include *Elektra*, *Der Rosenkavalie* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Cole's 1995 recording featured several Strauss songs, including *Liebeshymnus*, Op. 32, No. 3, and *Morgen*, Op. 27, No. 4.